

**Recruitment/Retention
Region 3 N
March 9, 2015**

Attendees: Peggy Hays, Michael Thomas, Brandy Otto, Holly Luna, Arthur Fernandez, Sandra Dunn, John March, Meri Waterhouse, Ashleigh Barraza, Vicki Stock, Emma Wasswa, Xuan Chung, Mark Fullington, Christina Russell, Joanne Stimson, Ruben Reeves, Kim Tengel, Betsy Rodgers, Renee Fortier, Holly Bernard, Jeannie Bennett, Erika Thompson, Althea Sanders, Linda Tosti-Lane.

Welcome and introductions. We had a full meeting room, with foster parents, DCFS staff, and private agency representation. I thank you all for coming and look forward to good attendance at future meetings. The remainder of the meetings in 2015 will be in room 195, from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm with a light lunch.

DLR Update – Xuan Chung:

Xuan reports all vacancies in DLR for Region 3N are filled, however one staff is on maternity leave. The agency will back fill this position in her absence. They have been working diligently with the backlog and currently only have 20 applications over 90 days. These delays are due to missing paperwork, or training, not due to staff overload.

DLR reports minimal concerns regarding the new mandate of flu shots for families caring for children under age two. At this time 13 DCFS homes have modified their license, 45 modified through CPA's, and zero have quit. There are still 68 homes for which we are awaiting a response. A letter will be going out soon, with the deadline date to comply.

Recruitment, Development and Support (RDS)

Erika Thompson – Fostering Together:

Erika consistently works on the data base of names with potential caregivers, currently having 350-400 names. She has made several faith-based presentations over the past month, and is happy to report a new support group has started in South Tacoma. She is also scheduling “playdays” throughout different areas of the county; hoping to bring foster families together in a very relaxed and fun atmosphere. She will be starting with the areas furthest out, which are often more isolated and challenging for foster parents to develop relationships with other families.

There is also a new support group in Bremerton for parents of teens. One will be starting in Pierce soon. One other support group about to start in Tacoma is for bio kids.

Ericka reports the Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner will be May 5th. Held again at the Shriners, it will have a Cinco de Mayo theme – Mexican food, decor, etc.

ON June 4th, foster parents can attend the Rainer's Baseball game in Tacoma. Olive Crest has purchased 500 tickets which will be distributed by the liaisons in neighboring counties. The Mariners will also be

holding the “we are Family” event in Seattle on Sunday April 26th. Discounted tickets available, lots of give-a-ways and T-shirts, etc.

Also a reminder of the Statewide Caregiver conference on May 15, 16 and 17 at Great Wolf Lodge. Rooms are still available.

Alliance Report – Arthur Fernandez

Classes for CCT and specific topic trainings continue to be full in Region 3. In the last quarter (Oct – Dec) we were up by 80 participants. For CCT, 491 people participated and 424 completed. There were 15 CCT modules completed throughout the Region. Trainers and Alliance staff are meeting to look at CCT – what’s working, what’s not, how can we make it better, what do we need to tweak, etc. There will also be changes coming to Parenting Plus – curriculum updated and will be evidence based.

Tacoma now has a partnership with the Hands on Children’s Museum, who will provide childcare while parents are in training. This will be piloted in June.

Community and Family Services – Mark Fullington

CFSF has been receiving increased applications all over the state. Mark reports they have 162 licensed homes, having closed 20. They currently have applications for 4-5 new homes in Pierce County. They continue to focus on recruitment and have been in talks with DCFS/DLR in several counties. They are hoping to open several receiving homes soon in Vancouver. They have been experiencing difficulty with the backlog of background checks, which is prolonging the licensing. Hoping this will improve with more staff.

Youth for Christ

Holly reporting 7 new homes licensed, for a total of 173 families. Approximately ½ are in Pierce/Kitsap, ½ are in King or Thurston. They are placing efforts on recruiting homes for adolescents – ages 10 and above.

The number of children coming into DCFS has been increasing. Betsy reports Pierce East filed dependency on 30 children in February, and they have been placing a number of large sibling groups. Discussion of challenges foster parents face, which lead to dialog regarding Foster Parent Critical Support – a program that provides support to caregivers to help successfully maintain placements of sexually reactive children, physically aggressive children and children with other high risk behaviors. Many workers and offices are not using this resource. We need to get the word out, and utilize this resource! Mary Waterhouse will put an article in the Caregiver Connection, and AA’s will talk about it during all staff meetings. Peggy will talk to Peggy Devoy and suggest flyers be available at FTDM.

1624 (CAFPT)

First topic brought to the table is the length of time it takes to get licensed. Addressed by licensing, and this is getting better. Now fully staffed and catching up. Not many “general” applications coming in – lots of ICPC and relative placement.

Clothing had been an issue in the past, however in Kitsap county, the clothes closet is expanding – two separate rooms - one for littles and one for teens. They are also adding more baby supplies/equipment

and opening up to the community. New Beginnings Church houses the closet, donates space for CCT, support groups, meetings etc. They have been extremely helpful to the KCFPA and foster parents in the community.

No real topics or concerns to address for the 1624 portion of the meeting. It is great to have so many AA's and management at the table, who are available to answer questions, clarify issues, and make recommendations.

Good News:

Last year was a great year for adoptions. Youth for Christ had 43, and Community and Family Services had 37.

Group discussion on the impact of social networking – reports of how this shows the need, and people are coming together.

Quick discussion of lice and the large number of children coming into care with severe infestation. What can we do? (other than the regular mayonnaise and other historical treatments) There is a program in Tacoma, "Lice knowing you" that is available, however somewhat expensive. Kim agreed to look into it, see what the cost would be, and if we could secure some kind of discount. She will report back at the next meeting.

Questions about data from licensing and DCFS – where in the county are kids coming from, where are licensed homes? Ruben volunteered to gather some of that information and bring it to the next meeting.

Linda Tosti Lane will train on Allegation Prevention on April 28th in Bremerton from 5:30 – 8:30 pm. Sign up on website.....

Next Region 3N 1624 meeting will be on June 8th – 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, Room 195
Hope to see you all there.